AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for removing membranous lead sulfate deposited on electrodes of a lead-acid battery due to sulfation, the method comprising:

applying a negative pulse current having a short pulse width ~~to bring about a conductor skin effect for intensively dissolving a surface layer of said membranous lead sulfate deposited on said electrodes of said battery, said negative pulse current having a pulse width~~ of less than 1 μs, ~~and~~ a pulse frequency of from 8000 to 12000 Hz, and a current value in a range of 10 to 120 mA, so as to bring about a conductor skin effect for intensively dissolving a surface layer of said membranous lead sulfate deposited on said electrodes of said lead-acid battery.

2. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

charging said lead-acid battery while or after applying said pulse current to said battery, to resolve the lead sulfate dissolved by applying said pulse current.

3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein

said pulse width of said negative pulse current is in the range of 0.1 μs to 1 μs.